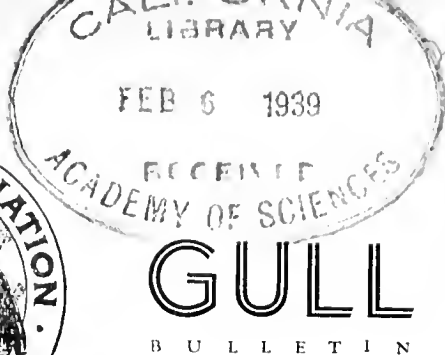


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# THE

MONTHLY



# GULL

BULLETIN

VOLUME 21

SAN FRANCISCO, FEBRUARY, 1939

NUMBER 2

## Christmas Bird Census for Yosemite Valley

Yosemite Valley, Yosemite National Park, California. (Mirror Lake 4,000 feet elevation to El Portal 2,000 feet elevation, fifteen miles distance.) December 21, 1938, 10 a. m. to 4 p. m., cloudy with intermittent showers; light wind; minimum temperature 46°, maximum 56°. Observers in six groups, 22 miles afoot and 21 hours in the field with a total of 41 species, 789 individuals as follows: Western Goshawk 2; Cooper Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 2; Sparrow Hawk 1; Plumed Quail 6; Band-tailed Pigeon 20; Pygmy Owl 5; Kingfisher 4; Red-shafted Flicker 6; Pileated Woodpecker 1; California Woodpecker 26; Red-breasted Sapsucker 2; Modoc Woodpecker 6; White-headed Woodpecker 5; Black Phoebe 1; Say Phoebe 2; Blue-fronted Jay 116; Long-tailed Jay 35; Short-tailed Chickadee 105; Plain Titmouse 5; Red-breasted Nuthatch 10; Sierra Creeper 17; Pallid Wren-tit 2; Dipper 5; Winter Wren 2; Western Robin 8; Hermit Thrush 4; Western Bluebird 8; Townsend Solitaire 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 24; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 13; House Finch 35; Sacramento Towhee 25; Brown Towhee 54; Lark Sparrow 2; Rufous-crowned Sparrow 2; Thurber Junco 160; Gambel Sparrow 30; Golden-crowned Sparrow 22; Fox Sparrow 12; Song Sparrow 2.

Mrs. Mary Tresidder, Mrs. Della Hoss, Mrs. Grace Ewing, Herbert Ewing, Darwin Tiemann, Everett Harwell, Lowell Adams, Lon Garrison (Ranger), Otto Brown (Ranger), J. E. Cole (Junior Park Naturalist), M. E. Beatty (Assistant Park Naturalist) and C. A. Harwell (Park Naturalist).



## Christmas Bird Census for Monterey Peninsula

Monterey Peninsula Region, California. (Laguna del Rey, Hotel Del Monte grounds, El Estero in Monterey, Monterey harbor from S. P. depot to a point on beach 1½ miles east, Hopkins Marine Station, Pacific Grove waterfront west to Point Aulon, Thirteenth Street in Carmel, Carmel Lagoon, 4 miles east along Carmel Valley highway and Point Lobos.) December 26, 1938, 6:28 a. m. to 6:30 p. m. Clear; ground bare; wind strong east at start, light northwest later; temperature 39° at start, 48° at return. All within 8¼ miles diameter. (Note: Names used refer to species as a whole and do not imply any particular racial form.) Common Loon 3; Pacific Loon 15; Red-throated Loon 1; Holboell Grebe 4; Eared Grebe 9; Western Grebe 5; Pied-billed Grebe 32; Brown Pelican 40; Brandt Cormorant 90; Pelagic Cormorant 18; American Egret 1; Black-crowned Night Heron 1; Mallard 5; Green-winged Teal 25; Cinnamon Tea 2; Ring-necked Duck 7; Canvas-back 26; Lesser Scaup 22; Buffle-head 4; White-winged Scoter 32; Surf Scoter 256; Ruddy Duck 248; Hooded Merganser 1; American Merganser 1; Red-breasted Merganser 23; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Red-bellied Hawk 1; Marsh Hawk 1; Sparrow Hawk 2; California Quail 71; Virginia Rail 5; Sora 2; Coot 402; Black Oyster-catcher 1; Killdeer 8; Black Turnstone 7; Wilson Snipe 1; Sanderling 117; Glaucous-winged Gull 352; Western Gull 377; Herring Gull 114; California Gull 162; Ring-billed Gull 16; Short-billed Gull 223; Bonaparte Gull 33; Heermann Gull 38; California Murre 1; Pigeon Guillemot 1; Cassin Auklet 2;

Rhinoceros Auklet 1; Road-runner 1; Barn Owl 1; Horned Owl 4; Burrowing Owl 1; Anna Hummingbird 4; Red-shafted Flicker 9; California Woodpecker 13; Hairy Woodpecker 3; Downy Woodpecker 1; Black Phoebe 6; Say Phoebe 2; California Jay 6; Western Crow 2; Chestnut-backed Chickadee 11; Plain Titmouse 4; Bush-tit 26; Pygmy Nuthatch 7; Wren-tit 6; Winter Wren 1; Bewick Wren 6; Long-billed Marsh Wren 2; California Thrasher 4; Robin 8; Hermit Thrush 5; Western Bluebird 5; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 1; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 13; American Pipit 3; Cedar Waxwing 40; Hutton Vireo 2; Audubon Warbler 23; Townsend Warbler 10; Yellow-throat 3; English Sparrow 19; Western Meadowlark 24; Redwing 37; Brewer Blackbird 261; Purple Finch 6; House Finch 17; Pine Siskin 5; Spotted Towhee 3; Brown Towhee 2; Savannah Sparrow 2; Oregon Junco 28; White-crowned Sparrow 57; Golden-crowned Sparrow 32; Fox Sparrow 4; Lincoln Sparrow 3; Song Sparrow 11. Total 100 species, 3,555 individuals. The Hooded Merganser has been seen frequently, in season, at the same place as on last year's census. Conditions for observation and identification points recorded as in 1937 report.

Laidlaw Williams, Carmel, California.



### January Field Trip

The January field trip was taken to the waterfowl refuge at Lake Merritt, Oakland, on the 15th. The group met at the feeding station and then walked around the lake counting and listing the birds seen, thirty species, as follows.

Eared Grebe 97	Lesser Scaup 517	Bonaparte Gull
Western Grebe 6	American Golden-eye 87	California Jay
Pied-billed Grebe 7	Bufflehead 1 pair	Western Robin
Blk.-cr. Night Heron 12	White-winged Scoter 1	Cedar Waxwing
Mallard 10	Ruddy Duck 182	Audubon Warbler
Baldpate 327	Coot 602	English Sparrow
Pintail 1025	Glaucous-winged Gull	Brewer Blackbird
Shoveller 4	Herring Gull	Nuttall Sparrow
Redhead 1	California Gull	Golden-crowned Sparrow
Canvas-back 244	Ring-billed Gull	Song Sparrow

Twenty members attended, namely: Messrs. and Mesdames Myer, Stephens; Mesdames Kelly, Millard, Woolsey; Misses Berg, Blake, Cohen, Danz, Giddings, Kennedy, MacIver, McConnell; Dr. Bostick; Messrs. Greenhood, Johnson, Kirker, Pike, together with six guests: Mesdames F. Feugereux, Krone; Misses Gladys Synder, Josephine Webber; Messrs. Bender and Messer.



### White-tailed Kites

The National Association of Audubon Societies has determined to make an effort for the conservation of the White-tailed Kite in California. They have suggested that a committee be formed of Pacific Coast conservationists to carry out some sort of program to preserve the remnant of this harmless and beautiful species. But before anything can be done, the Association believes it advisable to acquire as much data on the Kite as possible: its winter and summer distribution, food habits, types of nesting localities and nesting dates, together with information concerning the constant or sporadic use of these localities, and the attitudes of the landowners or human neighbors where the Kites occur. Therefore, the chairman of this committee requests that anyone having any sort of record of the species, no matter how trivial, forward it to him with as much pertinent detail as possible.

Because White-tailed Kite eggs are much prized by collectors, some of whom are so unconscionable as to take sets wherever possible, or to pay high prices for them, it is deemed wise that any and all information as to localities of nests, or presence of apparently breeding pairs, be closely guarded by the observer. The

chairman of this committee wants it distinctly understood that all records submitted to him will be strictly confidential. If there ever should be any release of material thus gathered it would be couched in such general terms that no identification of locality could be made.

A complete program as to conservation action has not, as yet, been worked out, but it seems clear that nothing definite can be done until more of the habits of the species within our State is known. It is hoped that all will contribute to this knowledge.

Laidlaw Williams, Chairman, P. O. Box 453, Carmel, California.



### Observations

The following notes have been received on observations made by: Mrs. Mary L. Courtright: near the pier at Point San Quentin, where the Richmond Ferry lands, an Old Squaw Duck, January 3rd.

Glenn Ensign: West Point, Mt. Tamalpais, about thirty Violet-green Swallows, December 28th.

Mrs. Junea W. Kelly: In a garden in Alameda, Bushtits were lining a nest January 12th (very early).

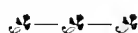
Harold Kirker: Golden Gate Park, Music Concourse, 4 Varied Thrushes, January 11th.

Mrs. Oliver J. Millard. In her garden in San Francisco, Christmas morning between 9 and 10 o'clock, Anna Hummingbird, Red-shafted Flicker, Hairy Woodpecker, Western Robin, Hermit Thrush, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Dusky Warbler, Audubon Warbler, Pine Siskins 24, Green-backed Goldfinch, Junco, Golden-crowned Sparrows 6, English and Nuttall Sparrows.

Arthur H. Myer: In San Francisco at Clement and Forty-fifth Avenue, near Fort Miley, 13 Meadowlarks, and at Forty-eighth Avenue and the extension of Clement Street, 12 Western Gnatcatchers, January 7th.

Robert Taylor: Oakland. Pigeon Hawk, December 21st; San Leandro Reservoir, many American Mergansers, Prairie Falcon and a large flock of Cackling Geese; lake at Saint Mary's, two female Hooded Mergansers, many American Mergansers, Ring-necked Ducks, Lincoln Sparrow; near Walnut Creek, several Mountain Bluebirds and found them quite common along the Borden Highway; also along Borden Highway, Florida Gallinules, American Egrets, White-fronted and Canada Geese were quite abundant, a few Snow Geese, 200 Whistling Swans, a Golden Eagle and a Louisiana Heron, January 7, 1939.

Mr. Taylor also reports that he and several others spent considerable time at the San Leandro Reservoir, "where in the last few years many Hooded Mergansers and Wood Ducks have been spending the winter, but this year the W. P. A. workers have cut out all the willows in the favorite spots and consequently spoiled some of the best birding places in this area."



### The Alarm Note

A female Robin was enjoying a repast of apples placed for that purpose on a clothes line rack in our back yard. Three or four Linnets were waiting about to resume their interrupted meal. They were chattering and occasionally one would sing. English Sparrows chirped about.

From our kitchen I heard a Long-tailed Chickadee in a neighbor's box-elder tree that stands only a few feet from our back door. I stepped out quietly to observe it. It was foraging down the tree near the trunk, probably picking off ants, and when within about six feet of the ground it gave a single alarm note. The Robin, Linnets and Sparrows instantly caught it and repeated it several times. A neighbor's cat mewed at my feet.

The Robin, Linnets and Sparrows had seen the cat and, in fact, were accustomed to seeing it about the yard and paid little or no attention to it. To the Chickadee the cat was an enemy and after giving the alarm note it sought safety elsewhere. The point is that the alarm note is a common language and probably



understood by all and was repeated, though the Robin and other birds were not frightened away by the presence of the cat.

C. W. Lockerbie, Salt Lake City, Utah. April 6, 1938.



### The Distress Call

While birding on the Jordan Fur Farm I heard the distress call of a female Yellow-headed Blackbird. Soon several others joined her and added their cries. One, more agitated than the others, kept diving into a clump of cat-tails and seemed to peck at something. My companion, Bill Bader, and I hastened to the place and found a snake wound around the cat-tails in which hung the Yellow-head's nest with three eggs. The eggs were cool, indicating that brooding had not yet begun. The pecking of the bird at the snake had at least postponed his luncheon.

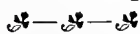
C. W. Lockerbie, Salt Lake City, Utah. May 24, 1936.



### Audubon Notes

**February Meeting:** The regular meeting will be held on Thursday, the 9th, in room 19, Ferry Building.

The evening will be given over to a continuation of the discussion begun at the last meeting, dealing with the policy and activities of the Association for the year of 1939. *It is very important that everyone interested in the welfare of Association should be present.*



**February Field Trip** will be taken on Sunday, the 12th, to Burlingame. Meet at stage depot, Fifth near Mission Street, San Francisco, and take bus at 9 a. m. to Easton Drive, where party will meet at 10 o'clock. Bring luncheon. Leader, Harold Kirker.



**January Meeting.** The 22nd annual and the 257th regular meeting was held on the 12th in room 19, Ferry Building, with twenty-eight members and guests present. President Junea W. Kelly presided.

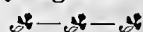
The following were elected to membership:

Miss Mary L. Roscoe of San Francisco, Miss Emily Giddings of Berkeley, and Ed. Greenhood of San Francisco.

Following the re-election of our same officers and directors for the new year, and the reading of the annual reports, the meeting was devoted to a discussion of our problems for 1939.

Unexpectedly Mr. John H. Baker of the National Association of Audubon Societies, in company with Mr. James Moffitt, came to the meeting and entered into the discussion, giving some helpful suggestions and ideas.

Mr. Baker brought two reels of slow motion pictures in color taken by Mr. John H. Storer of Waltham, Mass., showing Osprey and nest, Murres, Puffins, Razor-billed Auks, Herons, American and Snowy Egrets.



**1939 Dues.** The annual dues for the year of 1939 are now payable and all members are asked to make their remittances as early as possible to the Treasurer. It is requested that all checks be made in the name of the Audubon Association of the Pacific.

## Audubon Association of the Pacific

Organized January 25, 1917

### For the Study and the Protection of Birds

President.....	Mrs. G. Earle Kelly.....	1311 Grand St., Alameda, Calif.
Corresponding Secretary.....	C. B. Lastreto.....	260 California St., San Francisco
Treasurer.....	Mrs. A. B. Stephens.....	1695 Filbert St., San Francisco

Monthly meeting second Thursday, 8 P. M., Room 19, Ferry Building.

Address Bulletin correspondence to Mrs. A. B. Stephens, Editor, 1695 Filbert St., San Francisco.

Membership dues, payable January 1st, \$3.00 per year.

Student memberships, \$1.50 per year.

Life memberships, \$50.00.

Members are responsible for dues until written notice of resignation is received by Treasurer.